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UNDER THE ROUGE

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Environment had made of Whitey a criminal! Raised a babe in midst of the underworld he grew up knowing naught else. That the spark of real manhood lay dormant within him, was evinced during the World War, when he enlisted and received the "Croix de Guerre" for deeds of Valor.

With the advent of peace he returned to his native city and, being broke, drifted back into his criminal ways. Whitey's "buddy", being in the same plight, was influenced by the former. This young chap, called "Skeeter" for short, agreed to assist Whitey in a robbery planned, tho' he had always gone straight. Was from good family with advantages of education. Whitey had promised "Skeeter" that, this deed accomplished, he would lead an upright life in future.

Their plans were frustrated by a taxi-driver, who informed on them and police, surprising in the midst of robbery, "Skeeter" was killed and Whitey escaped!

Whitey, from a small lad, had loved Kitty, a beautiful girl who looked upon him only as "a big brother and protector" and with this he was compelled to be content.

Mal, a craven criminal, looked upon Kitty with eyes of desire and used every opportunity to force his intentions upon her. Whitey had been successful in shielding her and this enraged Mal! Latter broke into Kitty's room, one evening during her absence, secreted himself behind screen and when former entered, managed to take pistol from her, lock door and accomplish her ruin!

Whitey, going to say good-bye to Kitty before giving himself into custody, found Mal in Kitty's room and dashed him to floor rendering him unconscious!

Physician called in by Whitey to attend Kitty, found her insensate condition and suggested she go to fresh air sanitarium for a time. Whitey knowing she would be protected there, gave all the funds he had for this purpose. In sanitarium, Kitty came into personal contact with Martha, a splendid motherly woman, who accompanied by her small son Tommy, was in habit of visiting former place carrying cheer and happiness to all. Martha was especially interested in Kitty, having daughter of same age, and, when former was stronger, invited her to be a guest in her home, promising a mother's love and care. Kitty happy at such a prospect, accepted.

Having no substantial evidence against Whitey, the Dist. Attorney released him from prison and former sought Kitty in Martha's home. She was delighted to see her "big brother" and Whitey found comfort in Martha who personified the ideal mother.

From photograph on table, Whitey discovered that his "Buddy" was Martha's son whom she mourned but did not know whether he was living or dead. Whitey to comfort the mother, told of how "Skeeter" had died in his arms at the Marne -- had distinguished himself for bravery and last words were, to find his mother and give her his "Croix de Guerre" taking same from his coat, Whitey delivered his coveted decoration to Martha.

Martha begged Whitey to remain and fill place of her son and Perkins the banker calling just then, urged him to find place in bank for her adopted boy-- this was done and Whitey first time in life occupied position of honor.

Mal had become secretary for "Brother Josiah" a crook in disguise of Evangelist -- between them they were reaping harvest, saving souls! Evelyn, Martha's daughter, impressed by Mal's suave ways and ardor of his love-making was carried off her feet!

Fred, cashier of Perkin's bank fell in love with Kitty, Martha encouraged the affair and Kitty reciprocating, they became engaged, the latter first tried to explain tragedy of her life but Fred would not listen -- her love was all he wanted to know about.

Evelyn brought Mal to her mother's home on Sunday, where he encountered Whitey and Kitty -- all disguised their real feeling before Martha, but later Whitey threatened Mal if he dared to speak to any of the family again!

Kitty, having Evelyn's safety at heart, warned her against Mal, but Evelyn was angrily indignant and refused to believe anything against latter. Kitty deeply grieved at Evelyn's attitude.

A theft of eleven thousand dollars at the bank! Fred endeavored to throw suspicion upon Whitey. Latter knowing Kitty loved Fred and his own life a blank now, decided to take blame and give direct evidence of his guilt by pilfering package of bills -- was saved from this rashness by appearance of Martha who saved "her boy" --

Kitty, discovering Evelyn leaving home with her suit-case and being positive that Mal would get her in his power, to save latter, bared her own sad experience with Mal, before Fred! This was of no avail as Evelyn was convinced Kitty was a "bad girl" and would have gone wrong under any circumstances! Fred, a witness to all this showed his true calibre by refusing to marry Kitty and Whitey entering room just then with Martha, hearing Fred's denunciations of girl he loved so truly, told former of his knowledge of his embezzlement!

Kitty's anxiety over Evelyn's danger transcended for the moment all other matters and begging Whitey to save her friend, latter arrived at Mal's room, found Evelyn there in his arms and was intine to protect her from his evil intentions.



Kitty's "soul was weary" and death offered the only solution to her misery. Kissing little Tommie a fond goodbye she entered a canoe on river's bank and current was carrying her toward falls, when Whitey returning to house, discovered her absence. Swinging himself into wagon with double team of horses attached he managed to outdistance Kitty and plunging into river the two struggled with swift current! Fisherman on bank lassoed them and being brought safely to shore Kitty confessed she had always loved Whitey but had not realized it!

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